

INSECTS REARED FROM CACTI IN ARIZONA

(Dermaptera, Coleoptera, Diptera)

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Decomposing cacti have been found to be a very prolific breeding habitat for many insects. It is the opinion of the authors that cacti are ecological oases for many insects.

On April 13, 1952, a fallen and decomposing *Cereus gigantea* Engelmann was examined. Syrphid larvae were so numerous that when this cactus was disturbed, movement of the larvae was audible at a distance of three feet. It was possible to scoop up handfuls of the maggots.

In the following list the initials in brackets are those of the persons who identified the insects, i.e., A. B. Gurney (A.B.G.), C. W. Sabrosky (C.W.S.), H. B. Leech (H.B.L.), M. W. Sanderson (M.W.S.), O. L. Cartwright (O.L.C.), R. E. Blackwelder (R.E.B.), W. W. Wirth (W.W.W.).

SPECIES REARED FROM *Opuntia basilaris* Engelmann

DIPTERA

Syrphidae

Volucella esuriens (Fabricius), (W.W.W.). Tucson, Ariz., December 27, 1952.

SPECIES REARED FROM *Cereus gigantea* Engelmann

DIPTERA

Lonchaeidae

Lonchaea striatifrons Malloch. (C.W.S.). 7 miles west of Wickenburg, Ariz., December 26, 1951.

Milichiidae

Desmometopa sp. (? *tarsalis* Loew), (C.W.S.). 7 miles west of Wickenburg, Ariz., December 26, 1951.

Sphaeroceridae

Leptocera sp. (? *approximata* Malloch). (C.W.S.). Quartzsite, Ariz., November 28, 1950.

Syrphidae

Volucella isabellina Williston. (W.W.W.) 7 miles west of Wickenburg, Ariz., December 26, 1951, and April 13, 1952.

Volucella apicifera Townsend. (W.W.W.). 7 miles west of Wickenburg, Ariz., April 13, 1951.

Drosophilidae

Drosophila sp., larva. (W.W.W.). 7 miles west of Wickenburg, Ariz., December 26, 1951.

Heleidae

Dasyhelea mutabilis (Coquillett). (W.W.W.). Quartsite, Ariz., November 28, 1950.

Culicoides copiosus Root and Hoffman. (W.W.W.). 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., December 26, 1951.

DERMAPTERA

Labiidae

Spongovostox apicedentatus (Caudell). (A.B.G.). 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., April 13, 1952.

COLEOPTERA

Staphylinidae

Belonuchus sp. near *punctiventris* Casey. (H.B.L., & M.W.S.). Quartsite, Ariz., November 28, 1950.

Aleochara ponderosa Casey. (R.E.B.) 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., April 13, 1952.

Xanthopygus cacti Horn. (R.E.B.). 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., April 13, 1952.

Stilonedon sp. (R.E.B.). 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., April 13, 1952.

Physetoporus grossulus (LeConte). (R.E.B.). 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., April 13, 1952.

Histeridae

Hololepta (Leionota) yucateca Marseuil. (O.L.C.). 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., April 13, 1952.

Hololepta sp. (O.L.C.). 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., April 13, 1952.

Carcinops sp. (O.L.C.). 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., April 13, 1952.

Tenebrionidae

Cynaesus angustus (LeConte). (R.E.B.). 7 miles west of Wickenberg, Ariz., April 13, 1952.

The authors believe that the insects mentioned above frequently depend on cacti as an ecological niche in which to breed. No attempt has been made to include incidental insect visitants to cacti or such common phytophagous species as *Chelinidea tabulata* Burmeister.

The authors are indebted to the taxonomists mentioned above, for identification as indicated. Representative specimens have been retained by these specialists in the U. S. National Museum, California Academy of Sciences, and the Illinois Natural History Survey.